

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
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Request for Information Emerging Opportunities Solicitation Development May 12, 2015

Purpose of Request:

The purpose of this Request for Information is to determine if there are areas in need of funding which have not been addressed by the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP). Responses received from this Request for Information, as well as staff research and public comments from the ARFVTP Investment Plan Advisory Committee workshops, will guide the development of the next solicitation that will utilize the Emerging Opportunities funding allocation.

Background:

The ARFVTP was created by Assembly Bill 118 (Núñez, 750, Statutes of 2007), which authorized the California Energy Commission “to develop and deploy technology and alternative and renewable fuels in the marketplace, without adopting any one preferred fuel or technology.” The ARFVTP has an annual budget of approximately \$100 million for projects that:

- Reduce California's use and dependence on petroleum transportation fuels and increase the use of alternative and renewable fuels and advanced vehicle technologies.
- Produce sustainable alternative and renewable low-carbon fuels in California.
- Expand alternative fueling infrastructure and fueling stations.
- Improve the efficiency, performance, and market viability of alternative light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicle technologies.
- Retrofit medium- and heavy-duty on-road and non-road vehicle fleets to alternative technologies or fuel use.
- Expand the alternative fueling infrastructure available to existing fleets, public transit, and transportation corridors.
- Establish workforce training programs and conduct public outreach on the benefits of alternative transportation fuels and vehicle technologies.

The Emerging Opportunities funding allocation was established to allow for greater flexibility regarding project types and funding timelines by establishing a reserve fund that could be used by the Energy Commission to co-fund the “state match” portion of projects receiving federal awards, or to fund projects using technologies that do not readily fit into current investment plan categories. The previous “emerging opportunities” solicitation, Federal Cost-Share for Emerging Technologies (PON-13-604), was limited to ARFVTP-eligible projects receiving federal awards. This solicitation can be viewed at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/PON-13-604/>.

Requested Information:

The Energy Commission is accepting public comments under this Request for Information to help guide the development of the next Emerging Opportunities solicitation. Comments should address one or more of the following concepts:

- New funding areas that target projects which do not readily fit into current investment plan categories (with the exception of the Emerging Opportunities funding category).
- A new federal cost-share solicitation similar to PON-13-604.
- A solicitation limited to small grants of \$150,000 or less.

All comments should contain clear and substantiated reasoning and include the following:

1. Identification and explanation of the funding area.
2. The known project opportunities falling within the funding area.
3. A discussion of the benefits which may be realized from support and development of the funding area.
4. A discussion on why ARFVTP funding is necessary for the funding area.
5. Web links or references to documentation supporting the need for funding or opportunities available, including publications, other funding solicitations, and other relevant documentation.

Respondents to this Request for Information should not include any proprietary or confidential information.

Suggested funding areas should not duplicate or overlap with any existing or previous ARFVTP funding area. Suggested funding areas must be eligible for ARFVTP funding. A description of project types for which the Energy Commission may provide funding can be found at [<http://energy.ca.gov/2014-ALT-01/background.html>].

Respondents to this Request for Information should not include any proprietary, sensitive, or confidential information. This Request for Information will not consider the merits of individual projects or any requests for funding.

How to Comment:

Comments may be submitted through June 30, 2015. Comments received after this date may be excluded from consideration when developing the “emerging opportunities” solicitation. Comments must be emailed to AB118@energy.ca.gov and the subject line must begin with “RFI Emerging Opportunities”.

Thank you for your participation.